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ABSTRACT

This lesson provides a case study about a U.S. immigrant community of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and offers a contrast to the typical textbook coverage which emphasizes immigration from eastern and southern Europe to the big cities of the northern United States. The lesson focuses on Ybor City (now part of Tampa, Florida); it was a multi-ethnic, multi-racial industrial community in the Deep South, a section that traditionally had little industry and few immigrants. Explaining that the popularity of Cuban cigars in the United States combined with a high tariff on cigar imports led some Cuban cigar factory owners to move their factories to Florida and other parts of the United States, the lesson delineates the community of Ybor City with its Cuban immigrant life during the 1890s. Spaniards, Italians, Germans, and Romanian Jews also worked in the industry. The lesson is divided into the following sections which include maps, readings, photographs, and activities: (1) "Florida and Cuba"; (2) "The History of Ybor City"; (3) "Ybor City's Cigar Workers/Cigar Manufacturing Details"; (4) "Ybor City, Jose Marti, and the Spanish-American War"; (5) "Ybor Cigar Factory, c. 1886-90"; (6) "Cigar Workers' Houses"; (7) "Cigar Factory Workers at Ybor Factory, 1925"; (8) "L'Unione Italiana, 1919"; (9) "Circulo Cubano, 1926"; (10) "Centro Asturiano, 1925"; (11) "Evening Festivities at Centro Asturiano, 1920s"; (12) "Describing Ybor City"; (13) "The Immigrant Experience"; and (14) "Local Community History." (BT)

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## Teaching with Historic Places

# Ybor City: Cigar Capital of the World

**Teaching with Historic Places**
**National Register of Historic Places**
**National Park Service**
**1849 C. Street, N.W., Suite NC400**
**Washington, D.C. 20240**

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# Ybor City:
# Cigar Capital of the World

Walk down Seventh Avenue in Ybor City (now a section of Tampa, Florida) and feel yourself transported to a place in another time. Brick streets are lined with sidewalks of hexagonal concrete pavers and old-fashioned, cast-iron street lamps. Buildings present ornate porticos, decorative brickwork, handmade wrought-iron balconies, and ornamental tile work. A few small, plain workers' cottages, once home to Ybor City's cigar workers, have been preserved. Mutual aid society clubhouses indicate the importance of benevolent organizations to Ybor City's immigrant population. On a quiet corner lies a small park dedicated to Cuban poet and revolutionary José Martí. The park is a reminder of Martí's efforts to gain support for the cause of Cuban freedom in the 1890s. These historic sites speak of Ybor City's intriguing past.

*(Burgert Bros. Collection, Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System)*

This lesson is based on Ybor City, a National Historic Landmark District, one of the nearly 70,000 properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places

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# About This Lesson

The lesson is based on the National Register of Historic Places registration file, "Ybor City Historic District" (1974 and 1990), and other sources. It was written by the participants of the 46th National Preservation Conference, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Miami, Florida.

**Where it fits into the curriculum**

**Topics:** This lesson provides a case study of an immigrant community of the late 19th and early 20th centuries and offers a contrast to the typical textbook coverage that emphasizes immigration from eastern and southern Europe to the big cities of the north. Ybor City deserves a place in the history of the immigrant experience. It was a multiethnic, multiracial, industrial community in the Deep South–a section that traditionally had little industry and few immigrants. This lesson plan also provides an understanding of Cuban immigrant efforts to free Cuba from Spain as well as their support and involvement in the Spanish-American War of 1898.

**Time period:** 1860s-1920s

**Objectives for students**

1) To identify the role cigar making played in the creation of Ybor City.

2) To explain the cigar manufacturing process.

3) To describe the mutual aid societies that helped immigrants maintain their ethnic identity.

4) To explain the efforts of José Martí to involve Cuban immigrants in Ybor City in the Cuban rebellion against Spain.

5) To investigate the history of their own community and compare it with Ybor City.

**Materials for students**

The materials listed below either can be used directly on the computer or can be printed out, photocopied, and distributed to students. The map and images appear twice: in a low-resolution version with associated questions and alone in a larger, high-resolution version.

1) a map of Florida and Cuba;

2) three readings about Ybor City's cigar making industry, the ethnic makeup of the community, and José Martí;

3) a drawing that details cigar manufacturing;

4) seven historical photographs of Ybor City and some of its residents.

**Visiting the site**

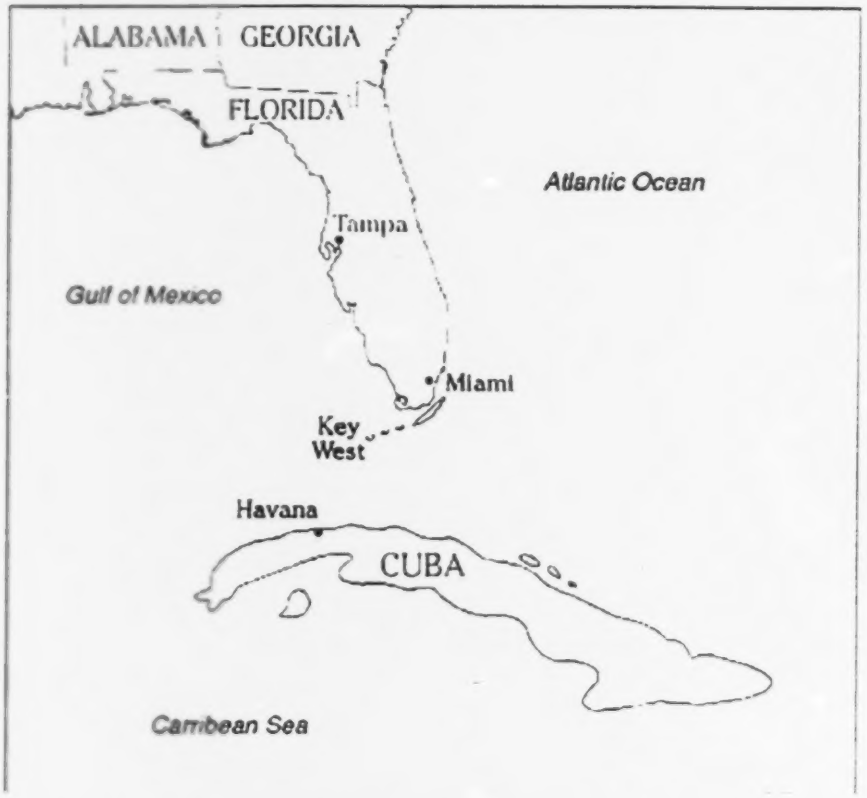
Now surrounded by Tampa, Florida, Ybor City, a National Historic Landmark District, can be reached by exiting Interstate 4 to the south by the Nick Nuccio Parkway or by Nebraska Avenue. The historic district is bounded on the south by Palm Avenue. For additional information, contact the Ybor City Chamber of Commerce, 1800 East Ninth Avenue, Tampa, FL 33605.

## Setting the Stage

American Indians introduced tobacco to the Spanish, who in turn introduced it to the rest of Europe in the second half of the 16th century. It was not until the early to mid-19th century, however, that cigar smoking became popular. Cigars made in Havana, Cuba, from Cuban-grown tobacco became the standard of quality, and American, as well as European, markets made Cuba prosperous. In 1857, in an attempt to raise revenue, the United States put a high tariff, or tax, on Cuban cigars. Many cigar factory owners in Cuba continued to flourish despite these new taxes because increasing numbers of Americans began to smoke cigars, and "clear Havana" cigars were the best. To escape the costs of paying the tariff, some Cuban cigar factory owners moved their factories to Florida, New York, and other parts of the United States. They also prospered because their cigars continued to be made by Cuban workers from tobacco leaves imported from Cuba. Vicente Martinez Ybor was one of the cigar factory owners who moved his operations to Key West, Florida. In 1885 he relocated yet again, to an area two miles northeast of Tampa. This area, known as Ybor City, became part of Tampa in 1887.

# Locating the Site

## Map 1: Florida and Cuba




Nearly all Cuban tobacco used for cigars was shipped from the port of Havana, Cuba. The Tampa area became an important cigar manufacturing location after railroad lines connected it to the major transcontinental railroads and the port was deepened.

**Questions for Map 1**

1. Note the locations of Tampa and Key West, Florida, and Havana, Cuba.

2. Why might Vicente Ybor and other owners of Cuban cigar factories have thought of Key West as a good place to start their first American cigar factories?

# Determining the Facts

## Reading 1: The History of Ybor City

Ybor City, a section of the large metropolitan area of Tampa, Florida, owes its beginning to three Spaniards who came to the "New World" in the 19th century: Gavino Gutierrez, Vicente Martinez Ybor, and Ignacio Haya. Ybor immigrated to Cuba in 1832, at the age of 14. He worked as a clerk in a grocery store, then as a cigar salesman, and in 1853 he started his own cigar factory in Havana. Labor unrest, the high tariff on Cuban cigars, and the start of the Cuban Revolution in 1868 caused Ybor to move his plant and his workers to Key West, Florida. While his business there was successful, labor problems and the lack of a good fresh water supply and a transportation system for distributing his products led him to consider moving his business to a new location.

Gavino Gutierrez came to the United States from Spain in 1868. He settled in New York City, but he traveled often–to Cuba, to Key West, and to the small town of Tampa, Florida, searching for exotic fruits such as mangoes and guavas. During a visit to Key West in 1884, he convinced Ybor and Ignacio Haya, a cigar factory owner from New York who was visiting Ybor, to travel to Tampa to investigate its potential for cigar manufacturing. That same year Henry Bradley Plant, a businessman from Connecticut, had completed a rail line into Tampa and was in the process of improving the port facility for his shipping lines. These methods of transportation would make it easy to import tobacco from Cuba as well as distribute finished products. Tampa also offered the warm, humid climate necessary for cigar manufacturing, and a freshwater well.

After visiting Tampa in 1885, both Haya and Ybor decided to build cigar factories in the area. Gutierrez surveyed an area two miles from Tampa, even drawing up a map to show where streets might run. Ybor purchased 40 acres of land and began to construct a factory. He continued to manufacture cigars in Key West as well, until a fire destroyed his factory there in 1886. Afterwards, Ybor spent all of his time on his operations in the Tampa area. At age 68, Ybor began developing a company town "with the hope of providing a good living and working environment so that cigar workers would have fewer grievances against owners."[1]

There had been Spanish and Cuban fishermen in the Tampa region before Spain ceded Florida to the United States in 1819, but the city had grown slowly. As late as 1880, the population was only about 700. In 1887 when the city of Tampa incorporated Ybor City into the municipality, the population increased to more than 3,000. By 1890 the population of Tampa was about 5,500. Most residents made their living from cigar making, while the occupations of many other workers revolved around the cigar trade. For example, some workers made the attractive wooden cigar boxes in which the hand-rolled cigars were shipped and which, in most American homes, came to be used for holding keepsakes. Other workers made cigar bands, pieces of paper around each cigar denoting its brand, which once were collected by children all over the country.

Ybor City developed as a multiethnic community where English was a second language for many of its citizens. Cubans made up the largest group, about 15 percent of them were African Cubans. Next were the Spaniards, who came in large numbers after 1890. Together these two groups dominated the cigar industry and set the cultural tone for the community. Ybor City also attracted Italians, mostly Sicilians, who had first come to work in the sugar cane fields in Louisiana. Some Italians worked in the cigar industry, but many operated restaurants and small businesses or farmed for a living. Most became bilingual in Italian and Spanish. Other immigrants included Germans, Romanian Jews, and a small number of Chinese. The Germans contributed to the cigar industry through their superb cigar box art. The lithographs incorporated into their cover designs were considered the best in the world. Romanian Jews and Chinese immigrants worked mainly in retail businesses and in service trades.

Ybor City eventually outproduced Havana as a manufacturing center of quality cigars. Both Ybor and Haya offered plant sites and other incentives to lure other major cigar factory owners away from Cuba and Key West. There were also hundreds of small cigar making shops. By 1900 Tampa's Ybor City had become known as the "Cigar Capital of the World." Nearby West Tampa also profited from Ybor City's success. By 1895 it had 10 cigar factories of its own, and it also supported additional box making and label printing factories.

Ybor City continued to grow and prosper through the 1920s and into the 1930s. Several factors soon converged to bring about hard times, however. Cigarette consumption began to grow, a major depression struck the nation, and improved machinery for rolling cigars began to produce a product comparable in workmanship to the hand-rolled variety. At first, these machine-produced cigars could find little market because the hand-rolled "Havana" type cigar had such a good reputation. Then the producers of the machine-made cigars launched a notorious "spit" campaign. In their advertisements they falsely claimed that human saliva played a major role in the production of hand-manufactured cigars.

The combined effect of the "spit campaign," the Great Depression, and the growing popularity of cigarettes finally changed Ybor City. Large factories either mechanized or went out of business. As machines took over for people, many of Ybor City's residents moved elsewhere in Tampa to find work. Between 1930 and 1940, some Cubans left the city and returned to their homeland.

In the 1960s Ybor City was split apart by an urban renewal project. Seventy acres of the old city were leveled, including several hundred houses, one mutual aid society building, and a fire station. An interstate highway took up part of the leveled ground, but the rest was never redeveloped because federal funds and private investments did not materialize. This destruction did have one positive effect, however. Years later, it prompted a number of civic organizations to band together to preserve what remained of the city's historic buildings and ethnic heritage.

**Questions for Reading 1**

1. Why did Vicente Martinez Ybor leave Cuba to start a cigar factory in Key West, Florida? What factors caused him to relocate a second time to Tampa, Florida?

2. Have any industries moved into or out of your community recently? What factors caused them to do so?

3. How was Gavino Gutierrez influential in establishing Ybor City?

4. What was the approximate percent of growth in Tampa from 1880 to 1890? How does this demonstrate the impact of the cigar industry on Tampa? What would be some of the positive and negative impacts if your community grew at a similar rate over the next 10 years?

5. What factors caused Ybor City's cigar-making industry to decline?

*Compiled from James H. Charleton, "Ybor City Historic District" (Hillsborough County, Florida) National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1990; Diane D. Greer, L. Glenn Westfall, and Gary Englehardt, "Ybor City Historic District" (Hillsborough County, Florida) National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1974; Gary R. Mormino and George E. Pozzetta,* The Immigrant World of Ybor City *(Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1987), 63-69; L. Glenn Westfall, "Latin Entrepreneurs and the Birth of Ybor City," Tampa Bay History 7, no. 2 (1985): 6-11; and information provided by Robin Gonzalez, Education Coordinator, Tampa Preservation, Inc.*

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# Determining the Facts

## Reading 2: Ybor City's Cigar Workers

## Workers

**Please refer to Drawing 1 as indicated.*

The men and women of Ybor City who made the hand-rolled cigars earned good wages for the times and had a certain amount of control over their work day. Because they were paid by the number of cigars they turned out each day rather than by the hour, they set their own rate of production. These cigar workers were artisans, and the goal for both the factory owner and the individual worker was to produce perfect handcrafted cigars.

The first step in cigar manufacturing was to age the filler, binder, and wrapper tobacco under controlled climate conditions. Then they were prepared for blending with different tobacco types to control the flavor. Next, workers called "strippers" selected and stripped from the tobacco plant the leaves to carry to the cigar makers. From a supply of leaves beside him, a cigar maker picked up several filler leaves of tobacco, laying them one by one on the palm of the hand until he could tell by the weight that he had enough for the cigar. Each of the filler leaves had to be pointed in just the right direction so that the cigar would burn evenly and hold its ash properly. The filler was then wrapped with a binder to form a "bunch" (see Drawing 1). Then the wrapper leaf was placed on a wood board and trimmed, the bunch placed on top of it, and the cigar was rolled in one smooth, flowing motion. The wrapper was sealed with a dab of gum tragacanth, the sap of a tree grown in Iran. The worker then trimmed the finished cigar with his blade (a thin wedge-shaped steel knife), and it was ready for seasoning (or storage) for up to three years before it was considered aged enough to be sold. Workers called "pickers" sorted the finished cigars according to color, size, and shade to ensure that all cigars in a box would look roughly the same. Packers then took the sorted cigars, placed a paper ring on each one and put them in the boxes that were then ready to be shipped and sold.

Each worker in the factories' large workrooms contributed about 25 cents per week for the services of lectors (readers). A lector sat on a platform above the workers and in a loud, clear voice, read through several daily newspapers, often commenting on their contents. He also might read aloud from Spanish poets, or from the works of Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, author of novels, plays, and tales. Cervantes' *Don Quixote* has long been one of the world's best loved books (perhaps better known now from the musical, *Man of La Mancha*). Because they listened to the reader for several hours a day, the workers probably were better informed than most Americans of the time. These readers were talented, well-paid men who commented on the news with wit or irony and who used their voices to indicate different characters in the poems and novels they read.

After work hours, most cigar workers took advantage of Ybor City's mutual aid societies.

Different ethnic groups founded these social and cultural organizations to help members adapt to a new land while retaining their ethnic traditions. Mutual aid society members could gather at their clubhouse to socialize over dominoes or cards, attend a performance or dance, or participate in a variety of other recreational activities. However, these societies provided more than entertainment. For a small fee collected weekly from their members, clubs contracted with doctors and hospitals to provide medical care. The societies also operated pharmacies and provided burial services for their members. The Spanish-speaking population founded four of these clubs. Italian and German immigrants each established a club as well.

El Centro Espanol, founded in 1891, was the first mutual aid society in Ybor City. To join, applicants had to be either Spaniards by birth or loyal to Spain. Members paid 25 cents a week to enjoy social privileges as well as death and injury benefits. In 1975 the club still had some 2,000 members who used its restaurant and coffee shop, and attended movies during the week and live performances on weekends. El Centro Espanol has been vacant, however, since the mid-1980s. Three of Ybor City's mutual aid society clubhouses, El Centro Asturiano, El Circulo Cubano, and L'Unione Italiana, have remained in continuous use since they were constructed in the first quarter of the 20th century. By providing everyday services such as recreation and medical care, Ybor City's mutual aid societies successfully helped immigrant residents maintain their ethnic identity while adapting to life in a new country.

**Questions for Reading 2**

1. In your own words, how was a hand-rolled cigar made?

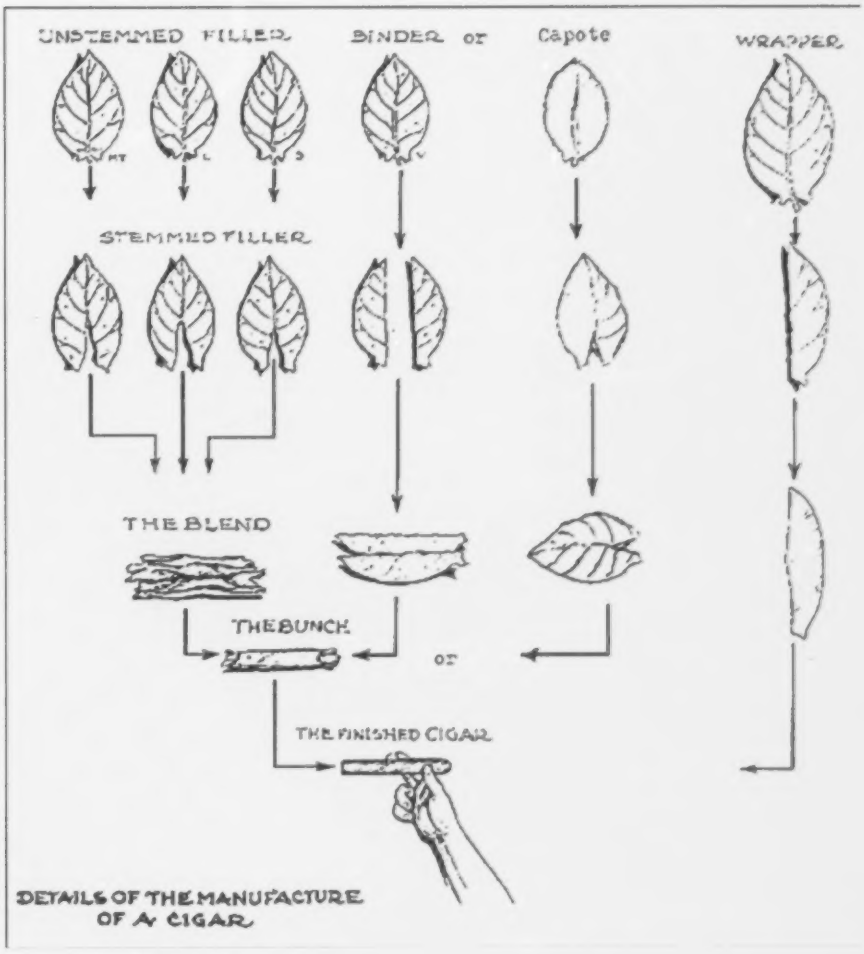
2. How did lectors make the cigar makers' workplace more pleasant? How did they affect the workers' knowledge of politics?

3. Why were mutual aid societies founded? What services did they provide for their members?

4. Do you think that the life of immigrants in Ybor City was better or worse than that of most immigrants in America during the same time period? Why?

*Compiled from James H. Charleton, "Ybor City Historic District" (Hillsborough County, Florida) National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1990; Charles A. Harner,* A Pictorial History of Ybor City *(Tampa: Trend Publications, Inc., 1975); Allen Freeman, "A Sense of Belonging," Historic Preservation (March/April 1994): 29-34, 118-19; Michael Zimny, "Cradles of Mutual Aid," Florida Heritage (Winter 1995): 16-19, Gary Mormino and George E. Pozzetta, "The Cradle of Mutual Aid: Immigrant Cooperative Societies in Ybor City," Tampa Bay History 7, no. 2 (1985): 36-55; and information provided by Robin Gonzalez, Education Coordinator, Tampa Preservation, Inc.*

# Determining the Facts
# Drawing 1: Cigar Manufacturing Details




*(Courtesy of Tampa Preservation, Inc.)*

This drawing illustrates the manufacture of a hand-rolled cigar as explained in Reading 2.

# Determining the Facts

## Reading 3: Ybor Ybor City, José Martí, and the Spanish–American War

It has been said that the revolutionary activities that took place in Ybor City in the late 1880s and the 1890s caused the Spanish-American War of 1898. Although that may be an exaggeration, the immigrant Cuban population in the city was deeply involved in Cuba's efforts to free itself from Spain.

Resenting their Spanish rulers who had become increasingly harsh, the Cuban people began sporadic rebellions as early as the 1860s. Some of the people who immigrated to Ybor City in the late 1880s were in exile because of their participation in such activities. Because of their proximity to Cuba, Ybor City and Key West became major centers for those who pushed for Cuba's independence. The lectors in the cigar factories often read from revolutionary newspapers and the cigar factory workers supported the revolution with cash donations.

Into this receptive climate came the great revolutionary known as the "George Washington of Cuba." José Martí, born in Cuba in 1853, was a teacher and a writer who advocated the overthrow of the Spanish who controlled his native land. He was exiled twice–in 1871 and again in 1879. From 1881 to 1895, Martí lived in New York City where he spent most of his time writing poetry, essays, and newspaper articles in support of Cuban freedom.

Martí often made long visits to Ybor City. On November 26 and 27, 1891, he delivered two speeches there—Con Todos Y Para Todos ("With All and For All"), and Los Pinos Nueyog ("The New Growth")—which outlined the goals of the United Cuban Revolutionary Party. Both speeches were reproduced in newspapers and journals in the United States and Cuba and inflamed Cuban desire for independence. In 1893 Martí delivered the speech that many feel led directly to war. More than 10,000 Cubans jammed into a small outdoor area in front of the V.M. Ybor Cigar Factory, punctuating Martí's speech with cries of "Cuba Libre!" (Free Cuba!) Following that rousing evening, workers from all the factories pledged to give one day's pay a week to the revolutionary fund. Hundreds of cigar makers and other workers formed infantry companies to begin preparing themselves for battle. From the revolutionary fund they bought a few rifles and some ammunition, as well as many machetes–a weapon with a sharp blade that is a cross between a sword and an axe. Martí returned to Cuba with a small army of these men and led the insurrection of 1895. Martí and many members of his Ybor City army died in a skirmish. Their deaths further inflamed public opinion against Spain.

Newspapers across the country emblazoned Martí's efforts in huge headlines and detailed stories. His death brought more pressure for full-scale revolution with help from

the United States. When the U.S. declared war against Spain in 1898, American troops passed through the port of Tampa on their way to Cuba, and many Cuban immigrants were part of that army. Martí was still so revered as a great Cuban freedom fighter many years later that when Fidel Castro imposed a dictatorship on Cuba in 1958, the U.S. government named its shortwave radio broadcasts to Cuba "Radio Martí."

**Questions for Reading 3**

1. Who was José Martí, and why was he considered to be a martyr to the cause of Cuba's freedom?

2. How did Martí's work in Ybor City help the Cuban revolutionary cause?

3. Why was it logical that American troops embarked for Cuba from Tampa, Florida?

*Compiled from James H. Charleton, "Ybor City Historic District" (Hillsborough County, Florida) National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1990; and Charles A. Harner,* A Pictorial History of Ybor City *(Tampa: Trend Publications, Inc., 1975).*

# Visual Evidence
# Photo 1: Ybor Cigar Factory, c. 1886-90

*(National Park Service)*

When Vicente Ybor built this three-story factory in 1886, it was the tallest building in the Tampa area. The June 9, 1886, issue of the *Tampa Guardian* declared that there was "not a more substantial structure in the state of Florida."

**Questions for Photo 1**

1. What does the appearance of the factory indicate about Ybor's expectations for the cigar-making industry in Tampa?

2. What evidence does the photo provide that indicates Ybor's status as a cigar manufacturer at the time?

# Visual Evidence
# Photo 2: Cigar Workers' House

*Courtesy of Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System)*

Most cigar workers in Ybor City lived in houses built and owned by factory owners. The houses pictured in this photo were built in the late 19th century and had no electricity or plumbing.

**Questions for Photo 2**

1. List some of your observations about the worker housing.

2. Imagine that you recently immigrated to Ybor City to work in a cigar factory. What might be some of the advantages and disadvantages of renting a house from the factory owner?

# Visual Evidence
# Photo 3: Cigar Workers at the Ybor Factory, 1925

*(Florida State Archives)*

Approximately 1,150 cigar makers filled this room at the Ybor factory in 1925. The factory contained two other rooms of this size and several smaller ones. Note the lector sitting at the far upper right.

**Questions for Photo 3**

1. Divide the photo into quadrants with a pen or marker and examine each closely. List your observations about the workers and the factory itself.

2. What might the lector be reading to the workers?

3. Do you think you would have liked to work here? Why or why not?

# Visual Evidence
# Photo 4: L'Unione Italiana, 1919

L'Unione Italiana was founded in 1894. Construction began on the current clubhouse in 1917 after a fire destroyed the previous one. The $80,000 Italian Renaissance-style building, featuring classical columns, terra cotta relief and marble, included a theater, dance floor, library, cantina (bar), and bowling alley.

*(Courtesy of Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System)*

# Photo 5: Circulo Cubano, 1926

The Cubans formed El Club Nacional Cubano in 1899, which was renamed El Circulo Cubano in 1902. The current clubhouse, completed in 1918, replaced an earlier building damaged by fire. The $60,000 clubhouse contained a cantina, a ballroom decorated by Cuban painters, a theater, pharmacy, library, gymnasium, and boxing arena. Imported tile, stained glass windows, and marble provide decorative detail.

*(Courtesy of Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System)*

# Photo 6: Centro Asturiano, 1925

Centro Asturiano, founded in 1904, was named for the province in Spain from which most of its members came. The Beaux Arts style clubhouse that stands today was unveiled in 1914. It was built for the then-astronomical cost of $110,000 and touted as "the most beautiful building in the south" by the *Tampa Tribune*. It contained a 1,100-seat theater, cantina (bar), library, and ballroom. Even today activities at the club include theatrical productions in both Spanish and English, concerts, and operas.

**Questions for Photos 4, 5, 6**

1. What features do the three clubhouses shown in Photos 4-6 have in common?

2. What do the appearances of the buildings reveal about the importance of the clubhouses to club members?

# Visual Evidence

## Photo 7: Evening Festivities at Centro Asturiano, 1920s

*(Courtesy of* La Gaceta *Publishing, Inc.)*

**Questions for Photo 7**

1. In which room of the clubhouse do you think this photo was taken? Why?

2. Based on what you have learned so far, do you think this scene would have been typical in the clubs? Why or why not?

3. Examine the photo closely and describe details such as the decoration of the room, clothing worn by the men and women, activities taking place, etc.

# Putting It All Together

Ybor City is one of the most distinctive historic districts in the United States. Although, like northern industrial cities, it was the site of late-19th-century immigration, the city took on its own unique character. Through the following activities students will be able to describe that character and identify similarities or differences found in their own community.

**Activity 1: Describing Ybor City**

Ask students to imagine that they are living in Ybor City in the early 1900s and that they have been asked to encourage other cigar workers to relocate in Ybor City. Have them design a leaflet describing the city during its heyday as a cigar-making center. They are to describe its economic base and physical appearance, explain the benefits to families living in the city, and make an argument as to why people would want to move there. When students' drafts are completed, have them work in groups of four or five to pool their ideas and then have each group produce a sample brochure. Debrief the activity by having students evaluate the evidence used in the most effective brochures. If time permits, consider having the students complete the above activity for their own community.

**Activity 2: The Immigrant Experience**

Have students use a history textbook to review the "new" immigration that took place from about 1880 to the early 1900s. Have them note that these immigrants were mostly Catholic and Jewish, and came from southern and eastern Europe. Their decision to move to the United States came from both "push" and "pull" factors. Push factors included religious and political persecution and poor economic conditions. Pull factors included opportunities to make a decent living, protection under U.S. laws, and freedom to practice their religions. Have students write short papers in which they describe how the Cuban immigrants fit the pattern of most new immigrants, and how they differed. Have them search the readings for evidence of push and pull factors in Cuban immigration. Hold a general class discussion on how the Cubans of Ybor City fit into the broader theme of large-scale immigration to America during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

**Activity 3: Local Community History**

Divide students into three groups and ask each group to research one of the following aspects of their community's history: (1) Was your community founded as a "factory" or "company" town? If so, what industry developed the town, and why was the location of

your community chosen? Is the industry still an important part of your community? Why or why not? If your community did not develop as a factory or company town, research when, why, and how it was founded. (2) What role have ethnic groups played in the history of your community? Are there places in the community that reflect these ethnic groups? How? (3) What are some of the recreational and educational facilities available in your community? Are they open to the public or are they patronized by members only? How do these facilities benefit the community? Next, ask a spokesperson from each group to summarize their findings, and then hold a classroom discussion on the similarities and differences between the history of their community and Ybor City.

# Ybor City - Supplementary Resources

Ybor City: Cigar Capital of the World examines how immigrant cigar makers adapted to life in the United States while maintaining their ethnic identity. Those interested in learning more will find that the Internet offers a variety of materials, both about the city itself and about its rich cultural history.

## Ybor City Resources

**Ybor City Chamber of Commerce** - http://www.ybor.org/

This historic district is a National Historic Landmark. The Ybor City Chamber of Commerce web page details the history of the historic clubs of Ybor City as the "cradle of mutual aid." The web page also provides details on the Ybor City State Museum which features cigar workers' houses as well as other related historic sites.

**Ybor Square** - http://www.yborsquare.com/

Ybor Square, Tampa's historic marketplace, is lodged in the original V.M. Ybor Cigar Factory. The Ybor Square web page offers a brief history of the district including its role in the Spanish-American War. It also features information about Ybor City's cigar manufacturing legacy.

**L'Unione Italiana** - http://www.italian-club.org/

The L'Unione Italiana web page provides a unique perspective on the historic club and how it functioned in the Italian immigrant society in the past as well as today.

## Spanish-American War Resources

**Free Cuba Foundation** - http://www.fiu.edu/~fcf/index.html
The Free Cuba Foundation web page comes from Florida International University. It offers a history of Cuba including the Spanish-American War. It also details the thoughts and history of José Martí.

**Historical Museum of Southern Florida** -
http://www.historical-museum.org/history/war/war.htm

The Historical Museum of Southern Florida provides a detailed account of the Spanish-American War including "Cuba Libre," the struggle for Cuba's independence. The web page offers information on José Martí, American involvement in the war, as well as the Cuban immigrant effort to support the cause from abroad.

**Library of Congress -** http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/1898/

The Library of Congress Spanish-American War Home Page provides resources and documents about the Spanish-American War, the period before the war, and some of the people who participated in the fighting or commented about it. Information about Cuba, Guam, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Spain, and the United States is provided in chronologies, bibliographies, and a variety of pictorial and textual material from bilingual sources.

**The National Park Service -** http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/1spamwar.htm

The National Park Service has a Spanish-American War Centennial Web Page offering a brief description of the war, related National Park Service web sites, Spanish-American war links, and a selected bibliography relating to the war.